



## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

5 November 1982

RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERINGMEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR STRATEGIC  
PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: NIE 11-12-83--Revised Production Plan and Schedule

Reference: NIC-8685/82 dated 27 October 1982

I commend your efforts to produce this important NIE. This estimate has been very helpful to OUSDRE, for example in the preparation of the Under Secretary's Posture Statement. While you may have had problems with the initial draft of NIE 11-12-83 we found some sections improved and more useful than those in NIE 11-12-80. I am concerned with the delay in the publication date.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Intelligence Community has the ability to produce a very useful estimate of Soviet technology and R&D. But, I also realize that the type of analysis and focus of research in the community on the key areas relevant to this estimate are new and still growing in virtually all the contributing organizations. Rather than delay publication, I would recommend that a key factor in each estimate be the identification of problem areas requiring follow-on effort. Instead of being problems that delay the production process, they should be identified for focused research between estimates.

We all realize that the community's capability to produce long range military forecasts is not as mature as analysis of forces and system performance. The area has long been hampered by lack of data and insight to the Soviet acquisition process. While knowledge has improved dramatically in the last few years, many areas still need further development. I would thus suggest that you treat NIE 11-12-83 as an emerging subject and look for block improvements from estimate to estimate.

Please let me know if there is any way that I can help in expediting the production of this estimate. We need to get this version published and then work to improve the next version. Feel free to contact me any time you wish to discuss ways I could help you to keep this estimate moving.

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Assessment

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